

2026 REPORT CARD

SEDIMENT QUALITY

Gladstone Healthy Harbour Partnership

What is sediment?

Sediment is the loose, natural material, like sand, silt, and clay, that settles at the bottom of rivers, estuaries, and the ocean.

Sediment quality refers to how clean or polluted that material is. Healthy sediment supports plants and animals living on the seafloor, while poor-quality sediment can harm marine life and water health.

GHHP thanks PCIMP and its members for the contribution of data from their monitoring program.

2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
A	A	A	A	A

Sediment Quality scored a Very Good (A) in the 2026 Report Card.

Sediment quality scores have remained stable across all zones since monitoring began. Cadmium, copper, lead, mercury, and zinc score an A across all zones. Arsenic and nickel are slightly more variable, and are naturally occuring within the harbour.



How is it measured?

Water and Sediment Quality monitoring in Gladstone Harbour is carried out through the Port Curtis Integrated Monitoring Program (PCIMP), a collaborative program involving industry, government and research organisations to monitor and assess the health of Port Curtis.

Sediment samples were collected from 51 harbour monitoring sites in May 2026. Sediment quality is assessed annually, focusing on six metals: cadmium, copper, lead, mercury, nickel and zinc, and one metalloid: arsenic. Metal and metalloid concentrations are compared against the Australian and New Zealand Guidelines for Fresh and Marine Water Quality (ANZG, 2018), which provide benchmarks for protecting aquatic ecosystems.

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